E S S A Y,

CONCERNING

The Publication of Works, on Science and Literature,

BY SUBSCRIPTION.

Inſcribed to the NOBILITY and GENTRY of ENGLAND,

BY THOMAS MALTON,

Author of the Compleat Treatiſe on Perſpective,

IN FOLIO.

TO WHICH IS ADDED

A true CASE, between that AUTHOR, his PRINTER, and PAPER-MERCHANT.

PRICE ONE SHILLING AND SIXPENCE.

LONDON:

Printed in the YEAR MDCCLXXVII.

PREFACE.

SINCE I have been engaged in the Publication of a very laborious and expenſive Work, on Perſpective, I have made, perhaps, uncommon application amongſt the Nobility and opulent Gentry, for their encouragement, by way of Subſcription. Finding ſo very few amongſt them diſpoſed to encoucourage any production of the kind, * it muſt, in conſequence, greatly diſcourage Genius and Literature; many excellent Works have, on that account, been cramped and ſpoiled, or perhaps, never brought to light. Such muſt have been the Fate, inevitably, of the Compleat Treatiſe on Perſpective, from the little encouragement it met with, at firſt, from voluntary Subſcriptions; had not a degree of Enthuſiaſm ſpured me on to accompliſh it; denying myſelf every ſuperfluous enjoyment in Life; being determined to perſevere, againſt every obſtacle which impeded, or retarded its progreſs. But little does the World know, or regard, the pangs it has coſt me; the many ſleepleſs hours I have paſſed, when retired from midnight Study; the anxious and coroding Cares, for the ſupport of a numerous Family, dependant, wholly, on its ſucceſs; having quited a mechanic Buſineſs, I had (with little ſucceſs) been many Years engaged in.

What muſt a Perſon do in ſuch a ſituation? or, which way ſhall an induſtrious Individual render himſelf more uſeful to the Community, than, by freely communicating the reſult of his long Studies, in a moſt valuable and really neceſſary branch of the Polite Arts? which is but little underſtood, where it is moſt wanted. And, ſhall not that Community, freely and liberally, reward ſuch a Perſon for his indefatigable Labours? and more eſpecially, thoſe whom indulgent Providence has bleſſed with plenty, who enjoy the fruits of others labour at a price too low; yet, regard not the extreme difficulties many are involved in, who deſerve a better Fate; and who, for want of that encouragement for their labour, they have a juſt right to expect, are reduced, through neceſſity (not choice) to many pitiful ſhifts, which degrade the dignity of human Nature; or, perhaps, to ſuch as render them obnoxious to Society. Hard Fate! When Gentlemen, of opulence, determine never to riſk a Guinea on the moſt meritorious Publication, what encouragement is there, for a Perſon to exert his abilities? unleſs he be in a ſituation to go through with the Work, at his own ſole expence, and publiſh it to the World for Fame only, (riſking the profit) it is folly to attempt it.

Is it becauſe a few have ſometimes loſt, perhaps, a paltry Guinea or two, each, that nine-tenths of the Whole ſhould reſolve never to riſk another? what right, then, have they to enjoy any pleaſure or advantages reſulting from ſuch Productions, as they have not a Heart to encourage. The many frivolous excuſes alledged, and ungentlemanlike expreſſions I have heard, from Gentlemen of rank; the inſults and mortifications I have endured, in the courſe of my ſolicitations for their encouragement to a Work, which, I preſume, claims a degree of merit, that will juſtify and deſerve their approbation and ſupport, gave birth to the following Eſſay. But, leſt I ſhould digreſs from the Preface, and run into the Subject, I ſhall only advertiſe the Reader, that, if he diſcovers any Portraits which are ſtriking, he has no right to ſay to himſelf, it is my Picture; unleſs, from ſtrong conviction, he is conſcious that it is a juſt and ſtriking reſemblance.

* There are many Gentlemen, who never beſtowed a thought on the meaning of the Term Perſpective; and many, who know its general Acception, imagine, if they neither paint nor draw, that it is wholly unneceſſary to them; not conſidering, or, probably, not knowing, that the rationale of Perſpective is a qualification every Gentleman ought to be converſant in; being at the ſame time a polite accompliſhment, and moſt entertaining amuſement, which requires little Study.

AN ESSAY ON SUBSCRIPTIONS.

IN the Preface to my Treatiſe on Perſpective, I have obſerved that there are, generally, two motives; from one, or both, of which, moſt Authors are induced to publiſh their Works to the World. It is alſo an undoubted truth, that, Neceſſity is the Parent of Invention; but, Neceſſity can never make a Perſon an Author, in any Science, who has not a natural propenſity to that Science; nevertheleſs, it may be the cauſe of a Perſon's exerting his natural Talents, in order to produce ſomething by which he may acquire Fame; and, by Fame, acquire a compenſation for his labour. Few, very few, I am perſuaded, are contented with Fame only, in Works of any conſequence; 'tis the Emolument ariſing from it, which ſtimulates the neceſſitous, in that, as in every other tranſaction in Life. Be what will the motive, it matters not, the ſame End is anſwered to the World; and, if the Work has a direct tendency to benefit the Community, it is dreadful to think, after a Perſon has made a particular Art, or Science, his peculiar ſtudy, for many years, has exhauſted his whole finances, and perhaps greatly embarraſſed himſelf, in order to perfect it, and it is manifeſt, that the Community, in general, will be benefited by his labours, that no proviſion is made for the Author, in a ſhorter and more certain way, than vending his Works to the Public; who, as Individuals, are but too apt to begrudge that Tax, levied on them; and, in general, would be well ſatisfied to have anothers labours, for their benefit, given to the World.

Advertizing, in order to make a Work known to the World, is an additional grievance; by which, the Goverment, inſtead of rewarding, exacts an enormous Tax, on each Advertizer; which, I'm afraid, many are but ill-diſpoſed to bear. 'Tis an exorbitant and moſt partial Tax, levied on a few only, and does no way affect the whole Body. Is it not grievous, after an ingenious Perſon has done ſomething, at the expence of all he is worth, for the benefit of the Community, that he muſt pay, extraordinarily, to the Public Fund of that Community, though ever ſo unable to do it, in order to make the Work known? It may be alledged, that, by laying on a ſmall matter more, to the price, the weight of it is thrown on the Public. But, is not that at the riſque of the Advertizer? who, perhaps, may never be refunded the firſt expence, excluſive of all other, ſubſequent thereto,

Patents, in many caſes of invention or improvements, are granted to the Inventors, to ſecure them an excluſive right to the emolument of their Inventions. But, ſhould not thoſe Patents be beſtowed on the Inventors, gratis, as a reward for the Author's ingenuity and induſtry? is it reaſonable, that certain Men ſhould receive ſums of Money, from the Patentees, to a conſiderable amount, by way of Perquiſite, who have no knowledge in the Work, or are, in any ſhape, aſſiſtant in it? and, conſequently, have no right to be benefited by it, otherwiſe than the Community, at large, is benefited.

The mode of publiſhing Works of Literature and Science, by Subſcription, ſeems to be well adapted, to encourage a neceſſitous Author to exert his abilities; but, alas! that mode is wore threadbare. Thoſe who have not run the Gantlope, conſequent to the raiſing a Subſcription, know little of the vexation, loſs of time, trouble, and mortification attending it; ſuch as, without the Work, is, to a Perſon of delicate feeling and ſentiment, more than adequate to the Money raiſed. To ſee the ignorant and illiterate treat every ſpecies of Literature with indifference, as

if not worth their notice; not conſidering, or knowing, that, perhaps, the Profeſſion by which they have acquired Competency, if not Affluence, owes its exiſtence to that particular Science. To bear the ſupercilious, not to call it inſolent treatment of ſuch, is more than human patience can bear, without retorting the contempt they ſhew, of Genius and Merit. Sometimes an arrogant pretender to knowledge in the Art, ſhall take upon him to dictate to the Author. There are ſome acute Genius's will tell you, that the whole of Perſpective may be comprized in a very ſmall compaſs; that it's enough to fright a Perſon, and deter him from the ſtudy of it, to ſee ſo voluminous a Work, and ſuch a confuſion of Lines; an indolent Perſon is ſoon detered from ſtudy. 'Tis, indeed, enough to make an Author burn his Production, inſtead of giving it to an ungenerous World, which does not deſerve it of him.

Some, from prudent motives, have wiſely reſolved, never to ſubſcribe to any thing; not becauſe they ever loſt a ſhilling by it, themſelves, but have heard of others having been taken-in, as they term it. Pitiful evaſion! Did they ever conſider, that the real cauſe of taking-in is moſtly in themſelves? for want of due encouragement, to a laborious and expenſive Work, the Author muſt, of neceſſity, deſiſt from the undertaking, though ever ſo laudable, in itſelf, or ever ſo uſeful to Society; or, being haraſſed and worn out with Fatigue, Anxiety, and Diſappointment, has perhaps, after many a hard ſtruggle, died under his Burthen; by which, many truely valuable Works have been loſt to the World, perhaps for ever; and the few, generous encouragers of merit and induſtry, in conſequence, loſe their Money; if that can be ſaid to be loſt, which procured a little Bread for the ingenious Author and his ſtarving Family. With what exulting triumph will ſuch Mercenaries condemn an Acquaintance for his credulity, or perhaps his humanity, in lending his aſſiſtance; what a misfortune it is to be curs'd with feelings, in any degree above the brutal. Surely it cannot be deemed derogatory to any Perſon (having ſuch genteel company) to have his name inſerted in a Liſt of Subſcribers, as an encourager of Science and Literature, or of Ingenuity and Induſtry of any kind; it's worth ſomething to have the credit of it.

Some take ſo long to conſider, whether they can reſolve to appear generouſly diſpoſed, and give the trouble of ſo many attendances, that the Obligation is, thereby, greatly leſſened, and loſes much of its merit: one would imagine they were going to make ſome great Purchaſe, or enter on the bonds of Wedlock. When a ſpecimen of a Work in embrio is offered, there may be room to doubt if it will ever be brought to maturity; but, when the whole is compleated, or near it, can there be room to heſitate, whether it deſerves encouragement or not? when they ſee a Liſt of Names annexed to it, many of whom are known and believed to have judgement. But they may be ſpurious; and, it wou'd be too much trouble to enquire and be ſatisfied, becauſe they don't deſire it, leſt no other pretence ſhould occur; ſo ſagacious are ſome, to find any pretence to avoid it, inſtead of ſeeking for its merits to deſerve their encouragement.

Some, very generouſly, will honour a Work with their Names, only, without advancing a Shilling, tho' they intend to have the Work, when compleat; great thanks are due to ſuch, who are reſolv'd to have value in hand, before they part with their Money. Is this to encourage Genius? is this to reward Induſtry? are ſuch to be deemed Subſcribers? I always underſtood, that the intent of a Subſcription is to promote and encourage a Work in its infancy; by lending it the proper and neceſſary aſſiſtance, in order to bring it forward to maturity. One can ſcarce think it poſſible that any Perſon wou'd (in ſuch caſe) refuſe to take the Work when compleat; yet, ſuch there are. Perhaps, with ſome, there might be a reaſon they wiſhed not to be known. Perhaps they imagined that the Work, like many others, would never make its appearance; and then, they would have the credit of being Subſcribers, without any expence; or, they looked on the time of payment at a diſtance. It was pitiful however; becauſe they might have made it convenient to them, if they pleaſed, or had ſpirits becoming Men.

To

To hear a Gentleman, or perhaps a Nobleman, of affluent Fortune, tell an Author, he knows nothing of him or his ſubject, is pitiful. It is unworthy of the Character of a Gentleman, when he has a Work laid before him, for his Inſpection, which he muſt be ſenſible (if he has no taſte for the Science, or Art) muſt have been attended with great labour and expence, to reject it, and treat the Author like a common Mechanic, or Shoe-Black; ſending down word (for his Lordſhip rarely deigns to ſee him) that his Grace, or Lordſhip, never ſubſcribes to any thing; or, that he is ſo peſtered with Subſcriptions, he cannot ſubſcribe to every thing. If they never laid out their money to worſe account, they would not impair their Fortunes; it is much to be doubted if they ever encourage any thing, with deſign. Is it not pity, that Men of ſuch generous diſpoſition and ſentiment ſhould enjoy one pleaſure in Life reſulting from it, or have it in their power to procure others, more to their taſte? A Treatiſe on Dogs or Horſes, on the Game of Quadrille or Picquet, Cheſs or Back-Gammon, Dancing, &c. would meet with much better encouragement.

Recommendation, amongſt the Great, has the greateſt influence, on many, who ſeldom are at the trouble of thinking of the propriety of their own Actions; who judge not, or determine for themſelves; and although, in your liſt of Subſcribers, there are ſeveral of their moſt familiar Acquaintance, it will not do, without a particular Recommendation; the reaſon is, they imagine you cannot procure one. A noble Lord will not bluſh to tell you, that, if my Lady **** deſired it, he would ſubſcribe to a Play Bill. Thanks to his Lordſhips generous encouragement of Science; 'tis the Perſon who recommends, not the Work, or its Author, that is beholden to ſuch Encouragers; who, notwithſtanding great part of the pleaſures and luxuries of their lives are dependant on, or originate from the Work, have not the heart to riſk a ſingle Guinea, in order to bring it to light; nay, without riſk, to receive the Work for their Money, that the poor Devil, its Author, may eat for his labour. Surely, ſuch never reflect for what purpoſe they have Money, except for Pleaſure only; or why the great diſpoſer of all ordained them Lords of the Creation; as they would willingly indulge themſelves in every enjoyment of Life, yet keep their Money. I wonder they don't enact a Law, that all who are not born to poſſeſs Fortunes, ſhall be Slaves and Vaſſals to thoſe who are; to do their drudgeries, or creature pleaſures for their lordly Maſters, without Wages, nay, without eating. Suppoſe they know nothing, at all, of a Work, offered to them for their encouragement; is that a ſufficient reaſon to reject it? do they conſider that the Author, who (like them, cannot dig) having no other means of ſupport, for himſelf and family, muſt eat, by ſome means or other? is it not, then, a Duty, incumbent on them, to encourage every ſpecies of uſeful Induſtry? What reaſon can be aſſigned for ſo many Burglaries, Highway-robberies, &c. but becauſe the Wretch has no other means to ſupport Life? wretched alternative! is it not rather a wonder they are not more frequent? 'tis dreadful to ſtarve; what muſt a Perſon do, who finds no encouragement for his labour? How, then, can they refuſe induſtry and ingenuity a ſmall pittance out of their redundancy? which, might be, if encouraged, of ſome uſe to the Community. But, whether they are really uſeful or not, employment keeps a Man from actions, which are averſe to his inclinations; to which he would never have recourſe, could he ſubſiſt by lawful means: reward them then, at leaſt, in proportion to the merits of their Productions; for every induſtrious Man is an uſeful member of the Community, and, certainly, has a juſt right to eat, for his labour.

Some Oeconomiſts, who have ample Fortunes, beſides large Sums in the Public Funds, are always exclaiming againſt the profligacy of the Age; and continually aiming to leſſen there domeſtic expences, by curtailing every trifling redundancy. They think there are great imperfections in the Police; and, if it be not ſoon amended, it will be dangerous for them to croſs the Street or Square where they reſide. If all ſuch would amend themſelves, and their own narrow-minded diſpoſitions, the Police would not need it. What feelings muſt ſuch have, who can

proſecute

proſecute a Wretch to Death, who has taken from him a few Shillings againſt his will? altho' he was going (the ſame hour) to throw away ten times the Sum, on ſome paltry Gewgaw, to pleaſe my Lady, or his favourite Daughter, if not worſe; without conſidering, that the Wretch who rob'd him, with a Wife and Children, at their wretched Home, were ſtarving, for want of the neceſſaries of Life; being thereby compell'd (dire neceſſity) to do an action, to which, his Proſecutor can have no inducement. Here, indeed, the Police is really deficient. Such Wretches are not tried by a Jury of their Peers, but by Men of credit, in Trade; whoſe reputable ſituation, in Life, ſets them above temptations to violate the Laws, which the others continual wants ſubject them to; and therefore, they cannot be fit Judges to condemn them.

Many will ſay, they have no Money for Subſcriptions; they ſhould add, of ſuch kind as have a direct tendancy to promote the real good of Society, by advancing the polite and uſeful Arts; by which, an ingenious and induſtrious, and perhaps a deſerving, Perſon might provide a comfortable ſubſiſtance for a numerous family; and heightened with the additional circumſtance of having loſt half the Work, by Fire; of which they were made ſenſible, if they could ſpare time, from their great hurry of buſineſs, about triffles, to read a few lines laid before them. One would ſuppoſe them guilty of commiting an Act of violence on their inclinations, or on human Nature. At the ſame time, they will readily ſubſcribe five or ten Guineas, to a Ball, or Maſquerade, or a Rigatta. I have been told, by the Servants of private Familes, that not leſs than eight or ten Guineas, weekly, were expended, or thrown away, on thoſe empty Pleaſures; though they have none for really uſeful and laudable purpoſes. Thanks to the all-wiſe diſpenſation of Providence, that, not only their innocent Pleaſures, but, even, their Vices are beneficial to the Community, though it proceeds not from that motive; yea, ſo averſe are they, in general, to do good, deſignedly, that (as if one ſpirit influenced the whole) they ſeem determined to do none, if they can help it, at their own expence at leaſt. ,I am almoſt inclined to believe, that, if they thought their Pleaſures were productive of good to the Community, they would be more ſparing of them, and begrudge every Guinea ſo laid out.

Unleſs ſome pleaſure or ſelfiſh gratification offers, 'tis in vain to ſhew, to ſome Perſons, the moſt valuable or uſeful Production; though countenanced by the greateſt Men in the Kingdom; they don't underſtand the Subject, nor deſire it; or, perhaps, they are not in the humour to be generous. Some think they know enough of it, having ſeveral Works of the Kind, yet know but little about it; that ſuch Gentlemen as have a taſte for any particular Science, or Art, ſhould refuſe to encourage it, when they ſee it ſo treated as to promiſe great improvements, merely becauſe they have other Authors on the Subject, implies a poverty of diſpoſition indeed; what is there to expect from thoſe, who know nothing of it, when thoſe who have ſome judgment refuſe to encourage it? It is not, however, abſolutely neceſſary that they ſhould underſtand it, the ſame end would be anſwered to the Author, and to the Community; they might underſtand if they were deſirous; if they would dedicate a ſmall portion of their valuable time, for rational entertainment, inſtead of empty, or criminal Pleaſure.

Some few, of great circumſpection, ſhut their Ears, and Doors alſo, to every importunity of the kind; by giving orders to their Servants, not to admit any Thing or Perſon to them, on any pretence (unleſs particularly recommended) leſt they ſhould ſometimes be induced to do, what they have formed a reſolution not to do, viz. encourage ingenuity, or induſtry. The diſpoſitions of ſuch, may be read in their inſolent Domeſtics. Did they but ſee how pitiful they appear, in the opinion of their own Servants, they would certainly deſpiſe themſelves, as they are, moſt deſervedly, by others. Nothing raiſes a Perſon higher in the eſteem of every one, than an affable and generous diſpoſition; being eaſy of acceſs, and ever ready to do good; to encourage uſeful induſtry, indiſcriminately, as far as is conſiſtent

ſiſtent with their own convenience. Suppoſe they were obliged to curtail ſome pleaſure, on that account; would it not redound highly to their Honour, to have their Names inſerted in every Work of merit, as encouragers of Literature? The juſt praiſe, and unfeigned reſpect, all of who have acceſs to them, would be purchaſed an at eaſy rate; if, inſtead of reſolving never to ſubſcribe to any thing, whatever, they would lay by, from twenty to fifty, or a hundred Pounds, yearly, according to their Incomes, in order to encourage every appearance of merit, in Publications of every kind.

Then would Science flouriſh, being patronized and held in eſteem, by the Great and Affluent; who reap the moſt ſolid advantages reſulting from it, in the conveniencies, and the pleaſures of Life.——Quere. Does not a Gentleman, in ſubſcribing to an ingenious, an uſeful, and valuable Production, do himſelf more honour than the Author? Is it not an indiſpenſible Duty, incumbent on the Opulent, to give proper encouragement to every appearance of Merit? Becauſe, not only the neceſſary Conveniences, but the Pleaſures and Luxuries of their lives, originate from the Induſtrious and Ingenious. Does not, then, an induſtrious Perſon deſerve to eat, for his labour? It is derogatory to Nobility, and the dignity of a Gentleman, to deny the neceſſary aſſiſtance to any ingenious and uſeful Performance, in refuſing, or grudgingly to encourage it. I would adviſe all ſuch worthy Beings to write on their Doors; No encouragement given here, to Ingenuity or Induſtry, to Science or Literature of any kind. Then, indeed, they would avoid importunities to themſelves, and trouble to their Servants; how, elſe, ſhould a Perſon know their Sentiments and Diſpoſitions? which being known, their repoſe would not be diſturbed by ſuch impertinent viſitors.

To ſee the Houſes of ſuch, embelliſhed with all the luxury of taſte; Palaces for Princes. Their magnificent Saloons, and marble Staircaſes, panneled with the fineſt Paintings, and adorned with coſtly Statues; their Cielings profuſely rich, in Foliage and other luxuriant Ornaments, with borders of fretted Gold. The very Handles and furniture of the Locks, and Knockers, on Doors of fifty pounds value, chaſed with curious workmanſhip, and double gilt, to the value of ten guineas a ſet. Their Furniture, elegant, beyond deſcription; their Sideboards of Plate, ſuperb, above conception; the Ornaments of their Chimney-Pieces, and other Trinkets, moſt exquiſitely beautiful, and, in curious Devices, exceeding even imagination; their Dreſs and Jewels invaluable. To ſee them laviſh (without judgment) on foreign Pictures (warranted Originals) enormous Sums, to feed their empty Pride and vain Oſtentation (in poſſeſſing them only) yet refuſe to ſubſcribe one Guinea, to promote a Science and advance an Art, on which the whole is founded; and which, with proper encouragement, might be a laſting Ornament to their own Country. Shame to the degeneracy, and I may add, the profligacy of the Age, that, whole, long Streets and Squares of ſuch Palaces ſhall not afford three, perhaps not one Subſcriber, to the moſt valuable and really uſeful, Work; though all have been ſolicited.

Can ſuch be ſaid to deſerve the bleſſings of Life, and pleaſures they enjoy, merely becauſe they had the good fortune to be born to an Eſtate? to loll on velvet Sophas, and roll in gilded Chariots? to have every ordinate and inordinate appetite gratified? to riot in every exceſs of the moſt refined ſenſuality, in midnight revels? inverting the order of Nature; to have the exquiſite pleaſure of ſquandering away Eſtates, at Cards and Dice, on Horſes and W——? Is it poſſible for a Perſon, of genius and ſentiment, to be treated with ſcorn and contempt by ſuch, without retorting the contempt, and almoſt to accuſe Providence of partiality, in the diſtribution of its choiceſt Bleſſings? That ſuch Men ſhould enjoy one pleaſure, but what they can create for themſelves; then, and only then, they would eſteem, and be truly ſenſible of the value of the Ingenious and Induſtrious, whoſe labours procure them every real enjoyment, in Life; which they are determined, by their behavour to them, not to deſerve. And yet, they look for Reſpect, and Obedience, from thoſe who they are pleaſed to

deem, and look on as their Inferiors. I could tell them, they would be both obeyed and reſpected, by all, did their Actions and Behavour to them, give conviction, that they are really Superior; would they perform the Duties incumbent on them, others would, willingly and chearfully, perform theirs, nor envy their ſuperiority and exalted ſtation: otherwiſe, the apparent reſpect, and ſervile homage they receive, are forced, of mere neceſſity, from many, who, I fear, with too much reaſon, think they have but little claim, on them.

An Oeconomiſt (who perhaps holds ſome lucrative Place, or receives a Penſion from the Government, as a reward for the great ſervice he has rendered the Community, which none but himſelf ever knew in what) will tell a Petitioner, for his encouragement, to any Work of Genius, that he does not know him; and he makes it a Rule to beſtow his favours, only on ſuch as he does know; that it is an indiſpenſible rule, with him, to lay out his Money on what he really wants, only; by which prudent management, he can aſſiſt (when his Lordſhip's in the humour and ſo diſpoſed) the neceſſitous of his acquaintance.

I have often heard it remarked, that the Nobility and Gentry of England are diſtinguiſhed for their benevolent and humane diſpoſition; in freely relieving the diſtreſſes of thoſe, who ſuffer by any Calamity. It is with inward regret I contradict that Opinion, and bear witneſs to the contrary. I have alſo read and heard of ſeveral acts of Benevolence, which make a great and pompous ſound, in print, though they were not intended, by the Benefactors, to be made public. I am much in doubt if ever ſuch Acts were done; or, if they were, that the intent was to be made public. Such benevolent Diſpoſitions I have never yet found, or met with, even in thoſe of whom the Acts were recorded. I have not, in the numerous perſonal applications I have made, for Subſcribers to my Work, obtained three, merely from that motive; although, one would ſuppoſe it a ſufficient inducement, to a benevolent Mind, having full value for their Money.

I have alſo had particularly recommended, certain Gentlemen, or Noblemen, as great lovers and promoters of the Arts, and of Science, in general; yet have failed in my efforts to obtain their Subſcriptions to my Work; though particular application was made, and the moſt urgent motives alledged.* Could one ſuppoſe it poſſible, that, Men of opulency, rolling in eaſe and luxury, could withhold their encouragement to ſuch a Work, after ſuch a loſs? yet, they can read and be unmoved; but rather endeavour to ſtiffle the impulſes of human Nature, if they have any, that are humane. Perhaps they were not in the humour, at the time; things are frequently wrong timed; Gentlemen, are ſometimes peeviſh, and out of humour with themſelves, and all the World; becauſe they are too fortunate; and, not having real difficulties to encounter, they are very ingenious in deviſing imaginary ones.† What! does Gentlemen, famed for Benevolence,

* In the Author's firſt application to Gentlemen of Fortune, for their encouragement of his Work, there was, on the back of the Propoſals, an addreſs to the Public; ſeting forth the difficulties which the Authors of ſuch Works have to encounter, from the great and neceſſary expences attending them; on account of the unworthy reſolutions made by many Gentlemen, never to ſubſcribe to any thing, whatever; and, more particularly, as the Author of that Work was encumbered with a large Family, whoſe chief dependance it was. After the fatal Accident which happened to it, and impeded the Publication, there was added (on another Propoſal) an account of the Author's loſs, by the Fire in the Savoy, (March 2. 1776.) which prevented his reaping the long hoped-for emolument of his Labours; and a great, additional expence incured thereby, in reprinting. But, alas! although thoſe Papers prefaced the Work, in the Front; yet, as thoſe who read them were no way concerned in the loſs, they felt little for the Author, or they felt to little purpoſe. Can ſuch be deemed Benevolent?

† It is ſcarce credible what trifling matters diſturb the repoſe of thoſe who want greater. The Book being left, ſome time, with a Gentleman, there happened to be a Paper folded in it, which was a Letter of conſolation for the death of a favourite Blackbird; hoping that, now, he would conſider it as uſeleſs ſorrow; that he might depend on his deſires being ſtrictly fulfilled, in procuring him a Neſt of young ones; giving him the moſt early notice of it, and how they proſpered, from their firſt taking, to maturity. Yet this Gentleman, whoſe feelings were ſo very delicate, felt not for the Author of this Work, who has loſt his preſent dependance; but was inconſolable for the loſs of a Blackbird.

diſtribute

diſtribute their Bounties and Favours as the effects of humour and caprice? Impoſſible. Yes, there is Caprice in every thing, even in Devotion; a Perſon is not always in the humour to be grateful, or even thankful for favours received.

However, I will do my own dear Countrymen this Juſtice, to own, that I have found more Generoſity among them, than Foreigners. Would it not do honour to a Gentleman in his own Country, to be an encourager of Science in any Language? yet, although particular application has been made to each foreign Miniſter, ſingly, and to the whole Body, at their place of rendezvous, I have not obtained one of them. A northern Ambaſſador, who I ſaw (inſtead of the Work being in four Books) underſtood there were to be four Volumes, for two Pounds five Shillings; and then, when they were all compleat, he would pay his Subſcription. He was a prudent Gentleman, to make ſo ſafe a bargain, and reflects great honour on his heroic Maſter. Had the work been in French, I ſhould, I believe, have obtained ſome of them; and, if it was in the language of each, perhaps more; which circumſtance conſidered, and the few of them, in proportion to the Nobility and Gentry of England, three Foreigners would have thrown the ballance in their favour. Benevolence ſpeaks all Languages, and is partial to no Country or Nation. I can, however, give a contraſt. An Engliſh Gentleman, in the vicinity of Groſvenor-Square, perhaps (in point of Fortune) not inferior to his Excellency, after retaining the Book above a Week, was, very generouſly, going to ſubſcribe, I believe, but happened to make a ſmall miſtake in the price; by omiting the two Pounds, he had ſtumbled (through inattention I ſuppoſe) over them, to the five Shillings.

But, what is to me moſt unaccountable, the older they grow, they are leſs diſpoſed to acts of Benevolence; making that an excuſe for their ſordid and niggardly diſpoſitions, which, one would reaſonably ſuppoſe, ſhould be the greateſt inducement to be generous; ſeeing, they cannot long enjoy what they poſſeſs. An old Gentleman or Lady, juſt come from Church, and performing (as they think) a Duty, which coſts them little or nothing, will be ſurprized at a ſtrange Perſon's preſuming to trouble them for their Subſcriptions, to any thing, though ever ſo deſerving their encouragement. Perhaps they would do full as much good, ſometimes, after they come Home, in chearfully relieving any diſtreſſed Object; or in aſſiſting, when required, as freely with their Purſe, as with their Prayers; of which they are liberal enough. I wiſh I could give a ſpecimen of a better diſpoſition, in their pious Paſtors, in the learned or titled Dignitaries of the Church; who (like Drones in a Hive) eat the bread of the induſtrious, yet are as ill diſpoſed to encourage merit and induſtry as any. One can ſcarce be induced to think they are in earneſt, in their profeſſion, their Lives and Actions being ſo little conſonant to their Doctrine. The reſpect I bear the ſacred Function reſtrains my Pen, leſt I ſhould be thought a Detractor, from the amiable Qualities of thoſe truly divine and humble Imitators of their great Pattern; whoſe ſole employ was, going about, doing Good. I remember, a Clergyman, who, from the account he had heard of my Work, came to ſee it; but, wanting it for a Youth only, he thought it too expenſive. Nevertheleſs, could he have found, in the liſt of Subſcribers, any reverend Names (though there were two, who I did not remember) he would have become a Subſcriber; but did not chooſe to become a Preſident, for others to follow ſo laudable an Example. Indeed, to do him juſtice, he promiſed to call again, and perhaps I might have got a Preſident. But other matters eaſily put ſmall ones out of our Heads; he might forget, nor did I ever after obtain another.

It is really entertaining, to ſee the miſtaken Complaiſance of ſome Gentlemen. A Knight, with a Ribband, (whoſe Name, once, had a great ſound at St. Stephen's) thinking reſpect due to Science and Art, left his Company, to come down ſtairs, and very politely told me, he did not ſubſcribe to the Work; although I was previouſly informed, he had made ſeveral notable efforts, but could not prevail; ſometimes

ſometimes he was half diſpoſed to it, at others he would not; which, at laſt, preponderated on the ſafe ſide, to keep his Money, and reward the Author with Complaiſance. Another (a patriotic Member of the Senate) to whom the Author had been particularly introduced, whoſe florid Oratory and ſmooth Eloquence are not inferior to Demoſthenes, brought the Book down ſtairs, himſelf, and, very politely, wiſhed me all the ſucceſs the Work merited; but that, it was quite out of his ſphere of Study, nor was he in a ſituation to encourage it. Let it not be ſaid; A Senator! or Repreſentative of the People, A Patriot! Can Benevolence be incompatible with Patriotiſm? Can thoſe be deemed Patriots, who have not Hearts to encourage the ingenuity and induſtry of Individuals? Patriotiſm implies, not only a Father, or Protector of his Country, but, a Man of univerſal Benevolence, a Philanthropiſt. When the private Actions of Men are conſonant with their public Profeſſions, we may, then, be induced to believe they are in earneſt; and that, Patriotiſm means ſomewhat more than Oppoſition. It would have been much more to the credit of thoſe truly polite and moſt complaiſant Gentlemen, to have ſhewn leſs reſpect (ſeeing they had ſo little) to have ſtaid up ſtairs, and ordered me, by their Servants (if they could not, in their extreme Complaiſance, admit the Author into the Preſence-Chamber) to inſert their Names in the Liſt. Another (a Baronet) left word with his Servant, that he was not deſerving of the Work, as he knew nothing at all about it. I am afraid it was too true. But, how eaſily might he have been really deſerving; by adding his Name to the Liſt, the leſs he knew of the Subject, the greater his merit, being quite diſintereſted: I could particularize ſuch, in the Liſt.

There are a ſet of Beings (but they are ſcarce rational in any Sphere, but one) think no accompliſhment of the Mind can be put in competition with geting Money; who, having got immenſe Fortunes, by continual application to Buſineſs, are miſerable if they cannot inculcate the ſame laudable Sentiments in an only Son, to ſpend his whole time in amaſſing more, yet take little care to embelliſh his Mind, and render him capable of enjoying what he has.

Such worthy Beings think it a ſufficient Plea, for refuſing to give encouragement to every thing, they have not a proſpect of advantage in, that they don't want any thing of the kind; indeed it is a common Plea, but a moſt pitiful one, with all who want Generoſity. If thoſe who roll in plenty could reflect, how happy they might be, in alleviating the Wants of others; that they are not condemned to feel, continually, the real Wants of Thouſands; andyet, they arein continual want. Real Wants are few, and eaſily ſatisfied; ideal Wants are endleſs. They are pleaſed to want numberleſs things, they could very well do without. One thinks he wants a particular Horſe, or ſett of Horſes, &c. another wants a Picture, the ſtile and drawing of Raphael, or the divine Colouring and Pencil of Titian, or Guido. Some cannot eat, with a reliſh, unleſs their Table ſwarms with Pyramids, Temples, Vaſes, antique Urns, and Hieroglyphics; and all the frightful forms a diſordered fancy can conceive. One wants every thing about him in the preſent, Stuartic and Adamian, Stile and Taſte; on the Wainſcot, or Stucco of the Walls, and Cielings; the Tapeſtry, after Raphael or Rubens, though he knows not one from the other; he muſt have French Plates of Glaſs, ſeven or eight feet high, to ſee himſelf at full length, though his figure and attitudes none admires but himſelf; he will have elegant Organs, and other expenſive inſtruments of Muſic, he never could play on; a Library furniſhed with Books (curiouſly gilt and lettered) he neither reads, nor underſtands, nor endeavours to underſtand; and, he muſt have a Balcony before each Window, which he never goes into; nor is there any thing to be ſeen, from them, but the oppoſite Houſes. Another will have all around him truly Gothic; barbarous and gloomy as himſelf. It is impoſſible to account for the ridiculous Whims and Fancies of thoſe who are bleſs'd

with

with plenty, yet curs'd with profuſion. They are ever deviſing ways to ſpend it, yet have not Hearts to do it with a grace, when opportunity offers; or pay, freely, for their own Whims. A Noble Lord will expend Thouſands, in building, and furniſhing his Library, with all the ſelect Authors; yet refuſe to encourage, by the Subſcription of one Guinea, the moſt promiſing Works, on Science, Art, or Literature; but, if approved on (when publiſhed) by the learned and judicious, they may find a ſafe Aſylum, in his Lordſhip's Library, never to be diſturbed hereafter. Another will laviſh Thouſands, yearly, in aiming to do what Nature has denied, viz. to render a diſagreeable ſpot of Ground pleaſing to the eye, by Art. Some, pretending to taſte, in Architecture, &c. are for ever torturing and turning their Houſes upſide down; others, who delight in Woods and Groves, &c. turn them outſide in, by painting on the Walls of a Room, all around, Trees and Landſcape Views, Rocks and Caſcades; truly whimſical, and as truly ridiculous. I don't mean to intimate, that, in the gratification of their various Humours, their Subſtance is wholly miſapplied, or uſeleſsly laviſhed; far otherwiſe; it is, perhaps, the very beſt mode of applying it (I am no advocate for giving, except to the aged, the infirm, and the indigent) in order to benefit Mankind; keeping them uſefully employ'd is productive of the greateſt good; but will any preſume to ſay, that, to do good is the motive. Now, although they are perpetually torturing their Brains, for ways to laviſh their Subſtance on their own, childiſh Humours, they don't want Books on Perſpective; or any thing elſe, which, to encourage, as they ought, would do them real Honour.

Some Gentlemen of opulence, and even amongſt the Nobility, will keep a Work ſeveral Months, till they have ſatisfied their curioſity in looking over the Prints; and perhaps, in reading over the introductory Parts, where they can comprehend it (by which, they might acquire as much knowledge of the Subject, as is really neceſſary for a Gentleman, who has not a talent for Drawing) and then return the Work, much abuſed; at the ſame time, have ſuffered their inſolent Servants to inſult, and even to abuſe the Author alſo, with very opprobrious Language; much to the honour of their Maſters.

There are others, who carry on a genteel and profitable Buſineſs, keep their Horſes, and ride out for Buſineſs or Pleaſure (often the latter) almoſt every Day; who have kept the Book long enough (if they have any Talents) to acquire all it contains; have ſuffered the Author to call ſundry times about it, deſired him to call again, and again, till they had enquired of one Perſon or another concerning it; and at laſt, without enquiring at all, ſent the Book home, after inſulting the Author for his impertinence, in calling after it; inſtead of encouraging the Work with their Subſcriptions. To enumerate all ſuch Worthies would take up more Paper than they deſerve; yet, where the behavour of ſome juſtly merits it, I have done them the juſtice to inſert their Names below*; a circumſtance which I was very unwilling to do; having, in this Eſſay, carefully avoided perſonal applications.

There are many, who, not having Hearts to ſubſcribe to any thing, have a great notion of making a merit to themſelves, by recommending it to their Acquaintance; as if there was any room to expect it; with what Face can they aſk their Friends to do, what themſelves dare not ſet the Example? But, if ſome Acquaintance (more generouſly diſpoſed to encourage merit than they) does ſubſcribe, through their means, they will arrogate to themſelves the far greater ſhare of the obligation. A Painter will ſay (for no other reaſon, but, becauſe Architecture is the chief Subject, made uſe of in the application of the Rules of

* One Mr. Utterton, a Plaiſterer, in Newman-Street, was recommended to the Author, as a Perſon likely to encourage his Work; who kept it, ſeven or eight Months, on that pretence; and then behaved to the Author, as deſcribed above.

† Mr. Wildſmith a Maſon, in Piccadily, received the Work, and knew his name was in the Liſt of Subſcribers; yet, after many Months, when I expected to be paid, he refuſed to keep it; and returned it, imperfect, without recompence, ſome Sheets and Plates being wanting.

Perſpective) that it is very proper for Architects, Builders, &c. An Architect ſays they have no occaſion for Perſpective, for their Deſigns are always geometrical; but he thinks, every Painter ought to have it; and he really wonders they are not all Subſcribers, to a Work of ſo much merit, and real utility. The Artiſts wonder, that every Gentleman of fortune does not encourage ſuch a valuable Production, and think it their duty to do ſo; intimating, at the ſame time, how generous they would be, if they were Men of Fortune. Gentlemen know nothing at all about it, nor deſire to know; but think the Work ought to be in the hands of every Artiſt (and Gentlemen alſo, who would ſee Objects with judgement, or deſire to ſee a Picture with diſcernment.) Thus, a Work is bandied about, from one to another; each Perſon zealous in recommending it to others, who has not a Heart to encourage it himſelf.

But, above all, what excuſe can be made for thoſe Artiſts, who have riſen perhaps to Affluence by the ſame ſteps, yet refuſe their aſſiſtance to other promiſing Works? unleſs the Dæmon of Envy poſſeſs them, that malignant Fury, who cannot bear to ſee the moſt fertile and promiſing Genius, advancing towards Fame. What pity, that ſuch were not rewarded in the ſame way, for their merits; the World having liberally rewarded the Talents they are veſted with, how can they withhold their aid, to advance the Arts they profeſs? The liberal Arts, one would imagine, ſhould indicate a liberal Mind; thoſe who live genteelly by the Arts, ought to be foremoſt in advancing them. 'Tis with regret, I own, I find it far otherwiſe; ſo much the reverſe, that, many, who have acquired, or are acquiring Fortunes by the Arts, are as little diſpoſed to encourage other Artiſts, as any Perſon, of equal Fortune, whoever.

Some there are, of too much conſequence, in themſelves, to deign to ſee the Author, or vouchſafe a poſitive Anſwer, yet will ſuffer him to dance after them ſundry times for the purpoſe; and, what is more extraordinary, others, after they have favoured him with their Names, will let him go twenty times before he gets the Money, though they have the whole Work in Hand. Some aſſume ſo much the air of Conſequence and Buſineſs, that they have not time to look into the Work: this is moſt infallible, the ſhorteſt and ſureſt method of avoiding importunities of ſuch kind. Some are too rich to regard it; others, and of merit too (who I am really concerned for) are too indigent to afford it. Some know enough of Perſpective, already (though that, perhaps, is little enough;) others know nothing of it, nor want to know (becauſe they have no Idea of its utility and value.) Some have got this Author, and ſome another; though perhaps they never ſtudied any. Some imagine it not neceſſary in their Walk, of the Arts; as if, to know Perſpective was a burthen, to thoſe who have not a neceſſary occaſion for it, in their Profeſſion. Perſpective is not merely a genteel accompliſhment, but, a neceſſary qualification of a Gentleman; elſe why do they ſtudy it? Can any thing render a Painter, of any Claſs, more ridiculous, than for a Gentleman to queſtion him, on the ſubject, either in reſpect of his own or any other Performance, and he not able to give a rational anſwer, concerning it, (which many cannot) to the Gentleman's ſatisfaction? 'tis a poor evaſion, to ſay he never ſtudied Perſpective, when it is well known to be the Baſis of his Art, whether he profeſſes Portrait, Hiſtory, Landſcape, or Ship-painting, in Sea pieces, &c.

Some think the Maſters they ſtudied (I mean copied) knew enough, and they have no Emulation to excel them, in any thing. Some are too old to think of Perſpective now; never conſidering the riſing generation of Artiſts, nor regarding who ſinks, while they ſwim. Some are ſo bigoted to the old Authors, that they cannot be reconciled to the modern, tho' infinitely preferable; and ſome imagine, the Italians are the ableſt maſters in Perſpective: I would aſk, what production of theirs, or other foreign Maſter, evinces it? Some want Perſpective to perform, what is not in the nature of things to be; who quarrel and find fault with an Art, by which the greateſt Wonders may be effected, where judgment is

united

united with genius. In ſhort, to enumerate all the pitiful, trifling, paltry excuſes, for the want of Generoſity, and a deſire to encourage Merit in others, would far exceed the limits of this Eſſay: I ſhall only add, that it is, perhaps, the beſt criterion to try human patience. Having danced attendance after an overbearing, conſequential, purſe-proud Mechanic, 'till you have over-earned the ſubſcription Money, in attendances; he will expect a bow to the ground, if he vouchſafes, at laſt, to give it his approbation, and return the Work (having had it long enough, and abus'd it ſufficiently, to acquire all it contains) and be obliged to him, that he gives you no farther trouble.

There are many Artiſts, of great genius, who, not having a clear Idea of Perſpective, and conſequently cannot account, to themſelves, for the cauſe of Diſtortion, have conceived ſuch ſtrange chimerical notions of it (in which they are countenanced, not only by the writers of old, but by the modern Author, Mr. Kirby,) as if Perſpective is not to be depended on, in many Caſes. I would aſk ſuch Perſons, what they mean? or where the Line can be drawn, when we are to have recourſe to Perſpective and when not? From the ſanction of ſuch Authors, and the puerile manner in which they have treated it, may be aſcribed the reaſon, why Perſpective has been ſo much neglected, of late Years, as if not a neceſſary ſtudy. It is but little to the credit of the preſent Age, to ſee Perſpective ſo little cultivated and encouraged, eſpecially amongſt the riſing Artiſts. It would ſcarce gain credit, a Century hence, to affirm, that, in a Country where the Arts are arrived at ſuch perfection, encouraged and patronized by royal Sanction and Munificence, where the greateſt badges of Honour and Diſtinction are beſtowed on their Votaries, where a School of Polite Arts is founded and patronized by their Prince, in which Academy, numbers of promiſing genius, in various branches of the Arts, are inſtructed by the ableſt Maſters, yet, not one of their Diſciples is to be found in the liſt of Subſcribers to this Work; nor half of the Academicians, to whom it is dedicated; although, their great Patron has ſet the Example, and given it his royal Sanction. But there are many Mechanics, Journeymen, who (I am ſorry to ſay) have more Emulation for a thorough knowledge of Perſpective, than thoſe, to whom it would be of infinitely more uſe. Can, then, Gentlemen, or eminent Artiſts, make the Price an Object, in excuſing themſelves from encouraging ſuch a Work? They cannot be hurt in purchaſing it; it will, at any time, bring the ſubſcription Price, at a fair Market; therefore its value is intrinſic.

Either the young Tyro's find it ſo little regarded by their ſeveral Maſters, that they don't think it worth the Study; or, their great averſion to any thing mathematical or mechanical prevents their looking into it; chooſing rather to blunder on, in ignorance and uncertainty, than take the neceſſary pains to acquire ſo eſſential a branch of their Art. Or (as I fear is too much the Caſe) Pleaſure and Diſſipation are ſo very prevalent, that, when the buſineſs of the Day is over, inſtead of applying to ſtudy, they commence Gentlemen; is it, then, a matter of wonder, that they have neither Time nor Money, to beſtow on other, and, with them, trivial matters? Surely they never reflect, what numbers are, at this time, training up to the Arts, and how few amongſt them, are likely to ſucceed; conſequently, the utmoſt exertion of their Talents is neceſſary, in order to excel; otherwiſe, I fear, they had better have been brought up Mechanics; an indifferent Painter is but a ſorry dependance for a Gentleman, who would make a Figure, in Life.

I remember, talking, on Perſpective, with an eminent Artiſt; ſays another, who was preſent (and juſt return'd, piping hot, from Rome) "Arithmetic and Perſpective are two things I never could comprehend, to make any thing on." Surely, he could not think it was to his credit. I am at a loſs to conceive why it is, ſuch often think ſo highly of themſelves; merely for a knack or habit they have acquired (without ſtudy) of drawing, and harmonizing Colours, though arrant Dunces in either Science or Literature.

Many (as well Mechanics as Artiſts) ſay they have no time for ſtudy, yet ſpend almoſt every Evening at Cards, or other trifling amuſements; and every Sunday in excurſions.

excurſions, and parties of Pleaſure; which, to be ſure, is far leſs criminal than ſtudying, to acquire uſeful and neceſſary Knowledge. He who is reſolved will find time, without breaking into that which is alloted for more immediately neceſſary Buſineſs; tho' that is frequently done for their Pleaſure. Perhaps, when they have leſs time to ſet about it, they will wiſh they had thought ſeriouſly of it ſooner. Gentlemen are acquiring judgment in it, and, if they were not led by the ſound of a Name, in their judgment of a Picture, they might frequently ſee great merit, in ſome Pieces which are overlook'd; and which, in many reſpects, might deſerve their encouragement. Certainly then, when a fine Picture has all the excellencies requiſite, as the production of a great Maſter, it muſt, nay it will, ſtrike every beholder; being, in every reſpect, a true and perfect copy of Nature.

And now, it may be aſked, what advantage I expect to accrue from this Eſſay? why, truly, very little to me, being determined never to ſolicit another Subſcription, of any kind: If it has any influence, at all, it may perhaps be the means of ſome future Work obtaining a Subſcriber or two. By way of advice, therefore, to future Publiſhers by Subſcription; be ſure they never preface their Propoſals with the Term Subſcription, or, their Liſt with, Subſcribers to, &c. unleſs a Horſe-race, a Maſquerade, Rigatta, or ſome ſuch laudable and rational entertaiment, follows immediately after. 'Tis an ominous Word, and frights many, who are otherwiſe very valiant, nay generous, when pleaſure looks them in the Face; they immediately take the alarm, and are on their guard (as if they were going to be rob'd) leaſt their tender Paſſions ſhould be awakened, to do a generous Act. Some determine immediately, on the firſt opening of a Book, or other Work; ſeeing the Word Subſcription, they look no farther, but ſend it out of their ſight, and never look in it again.

I think it would be adviſable to head their Liſt with ſome pompous ſounding Epithets, highly applauding the generoſity and benevolence of the Subſcribers; ſuch as, A Liſt of the generous and worthy Encouragers of this Work; (no Money to be advanced, 'till the Work is delivered) the humane will not do, 'tis a cold word, it looks like Charity, and that's quite aboliſhed. The Heart of Man is a ſtrange compound; though rugged by nature, it is poſſible, with proper emolients, to ſoften it a little; but, if I have any knowledge of Mankind, I am of opinion, that, whatever diſpoſitions are predominant in any Man, he will ever retain; and above all other, that it is impoſſible for thoſe who are ſelfiſh and mercenary, ever to be generous and open hearted.

Some, I doubt not, will think I have little cauſe to complain of a want of due Encouragement, having ſo numerous and genteel a Liſt of Subſcribers; whoſe Favours (as in duty bound) I ſhall, ever, gratefully acknowledge. I ſhall tell ſuch, ingenuouſly, that, although the Number has far exceeded my firſt Expectations, it is not adequate to ſuch a laborious and expenſive Undertaking. Ought it to be an object of Conſideration, with Gentlemen of Fortune, that they know nothing of the Subject, laid before them for their encouragement? Is it for themſelves, only, that Providence has been ſo partially indulgent? ſurely not. Let them conſider (in a more extended view) whether the Work tends to the benefit of the Community, of which they are Guardians; let them ſeriouſly reflect, whether they enjoy any Advantages, or Pleaſures, reſulting from ſuch Works; in that view, none would, or ought to heſitate, one moment, if he ſhould encourage it. Compare the few Subſcribers, amongſt the Opulent, to the innumerable number who have been ſolicited; very few amongſt the Nobility, were omited, except they were abroad; and many (whoſe Names appear not) in a particular manner, to little purpoſe; having Hearts, not of Oak, but, of caſe-hardned Steel. But, when they conſider the trouble and loſs of time (to ſay nothing more) conſequent to the obtaining the greater part of the Subſcribers to that Work, they will not envy me the emolument ariſing from it, or think I am ſufficiently rewarded for my labour.

FINIS.

GR III
BRITISH MUSEUM

A TRUE

CASE,

BETWEEN THE AUTHOR,

OF A LATE PUBLICATION,

His PRINTERS, and PAPER MERCHANTS.

TRUTH WILL EVER PREVAIL.

OF all the calamitous accidents, which, of late years, have happened in this Metropolis, none has attracted the attention of the Public, more than the Fire, at Meſſrs. Cox and Bigg's, Printers, in the Savoy, on the evening of March the 2d, 1776; on account of the many valuable literary Productions which were deſtroyed there; ſeveral of which were completed, and ready for Publication. Amongſt the reſt, was the Compleat Treatiſe on Perſpective, in folio, publiſhing by Subſcription, by Thomas Malton, and intended to be publiſhed in March. The following is a true Caſe between that Author and Meſſrs. Cox and Bigg; alſo, between him and Meſſrs. Wright and Gill, Paper-Merchants, in Abchurch-Lane, Lombard-ſtreet.

Thoſe Gentlemen were alſo ſufferers, by that Fire, to the amount of 140 Pounds, for Paper, credited Meſſrs. Cox and Bigg. Who being lately removed from the Strand, into the Savoy; and having taken in another Partner, * they had been making Conveniences, for carrying on a more extenſive Buſineſs. In conſequence of which, they had neglected to inſure, till all was completed; their former Policy being forfeited, or of little value, now. They likewiſe intended to inſure in another Office (the Union) every thing (if I am truely informed) was either ready to be executed or ordered to be ready. Perhaps the Money might not be ready; their neglect of ſo important and neceſſary an affair may, on that ſcore, admit of ſome vindication, in their favour; nevertheleſs, it was an unpardonable negligence, having ſo much of others Property on the Premiſſes, and in their poſſeſſion.

Although the Author of the Treatiſe on Perſpective was, by no means the greateſt ſufferer, by that accident; reſpecting the quantity or value of what he loſt; yet, all circumſtances conſidered, his Caſe was ſingularly hard; and, the treatment, he afterwards experienced, from them, and others, fellow-ſufferers,

* A Mr. Nettleton; who, if I am not misinformed, was but nominally ſo, in truſt for Mr. Wells, Mercer, on Ludgate-hill. Be that as it may, it is certain, Mr. Wells was the perſon who advanced the Money for Nettleton; and, there is not the leaſt doubt, but that he was to be a ſharer in the profits of the Buſineſs, as a joint Partner.

cruel and inhuman; ſuch as no Perſon, who had not taken ſome pains to diſſolve every ſocial tie, nay, to diveſt himſelf of humanity, could have determined to carry into execution. at the time it ſeems as if they were determined to crush him, if poſſible, by their premeditated, and, in ſome meaſure, their united efforts. As the diſintereſted Public are often miſled, in forming a judgement of ſuch matters, as they are no way concerned in, I was induced to lay the real and true ſtate of the Caſe before them, in the moſt candid and impartial manner.

This Treatiſe on Perſpective was the produce of many years ſtudy, the reſult of my leiſure hours, when I followed the profeſſion of a Cabinet-maker, with little ſucceſs; and which I quited ſeven Years ago, encumbered with as many Children, ſince increaſed one. Let any one picture to himſelf, the ſituation of a Perſon, who had quited a Buſineſs, not worth following, burthened with ſuch a Family; having no other means to provide for their ſupport, than the produce of his ſtudies, advanced almoſt to the meridian of Life.

I began printing the Work about three years ago; but, as all ſuch Works are uſually longer in hand than is conſiſtent with the Author's convenience what between the Engravers, Printers, Paper-merchants, and the encumbrance of eight Children, I found myſelf, when in the middle of my work, not in the moſt eligible ſituation; the encouragement, at firſt, not being adequate to ſuch an arduous and expenſive Undertaking. Notwithſtanding, I kept joging on, with reſolution and perſeverance, though but ſlowly; for Engravers are a hungry ſort of Gentlemen, who will not dig without eating, and well too; when, or before, they have done their Work, they immediately want their Money, and frequently much more than they deſerve; many of them being as mere Mechanics as any whatever.

Being thus circumſtanced, it is no wonder the Work went ſo ſlowly on; the Engravers work'd for me rather than be idle, expecting to be paid ſome time; the Printers had a very convenient jobb to ſet their Men on, when they had nothing elſe to do; and thus, we went gently on for ſome time, each laying the blame on the other. As time and perſeverance will ſurmount great obſtacles, the Royal Road to Geometry was firſt completed and publiſhed, in December 1774, which was well received by the Public. When both were finiſhed, I deſired to have them ſent Home, altogether, to ſave the trouble and expence in ſending often; but, as there are reaſons for every thing, they alledged ſome plauſible excuſe, to let them abide in their Warehouſe, and ſend for them as I wanted; which, judging the true reaſon to be ſecurity for Payment, I ſupinely acquieſced in.

When they moved from the Strand into the Savoy, they moved my Work, without giving me the leaſt intimation of it, although I had requeſted them to ſend it Home long before; and ſurely, as it was to be moved, it was as eaſy to have ſent it home to me, as to carry it farther from me. Not long after (for reaſons beſt known to them) they refuſed to deliver any more to my Orders, repeated ſundry times, to my great hindrance in delivering the Work to the Subſcribers, and conſequently to my loſs (as it happened) in not delivering ſo many as I might have done, or in making them ready for ſale; near a hundred Subſcribers wanted Books when the Fire happened. At the ſame time, they required Security for payment of the remainder of the expence in Printing, Paper, &c. which they had ſupplied. *Query*, If a perſon retains my Property, againſt my Will, as ſecurity for payment, is he not accountable for it, if the Property be deſtroyed? At length, by continual duning, obtaining Notes or accepting Drafts, they were over-paid, before the Fire. *Query, 2d.* Whether a perſon has a lawful right to be paid for Work done, which was never delivered,

although

although requested? and whether, the Property being deſtroyed, the Money paid ſhould not be refunded, in proportion to the Property loſt? There requires, I preſume, no great ſagacity, or deep knowledge in Law, or, at leaſt, in Equity, to determine.

A few weeks before the Fire, Mr. Bigg, as uſual, came to me, and deſired me to give him a Note of hand, or two, for the balance of their Account, as they were in great want of Money, that day; having in his hand a ſlip of paper, on which he had taken (as he ſaid) the ſum total from the Book; I think, about twenty ſeven Pounds. Now, as I never yet had a regular account of the whole, but only for the book of Geometry completed, and part of the Perſpective; and as there had been ſome diſpute in reſpect of the Money paid, which is perfectly clear by the Receipts given; by which, and the accounts I had, I was fully ſatisfied that very little was due to them; and conſequently, I objected to the ſettling an Account I had never ſeen; for which, every one who knows any thing of the World, muſt have condemned me for a Fool. But, he being very urgent and importunate, I agreed, merely to ſerve their preſent emergency, as I thought, to give Notes for twenty pounds fifteen ſhillings, provided they kept back another of ten pounds, due the week after, for two months longer; for which, I gave him another, then, to raiſe money, which was ſent me to pay the firſt. Mr. Wells, at that time, being concerned with them, thoſe Notes were depoſited in his hands; and the firſt was paid, after the Fire, as it was properly due before; the other, I was fully determined not to pay, unleſs compelled by Law; as they were ſcarce legally obtained, and for which I never received value in any ſhape; but, at the time I gave them, I was then going on with an Appendix to the book of Perſpective, which induced me to it; as I concluded, that before the Notes became due, I ſhould be as much in their Accounts; nor, did I doubt their probity, when we ſhould come to ſettle them.

Being thus ſituated with the Printers, I ſhall take my leave of them for a while, and introduce to the Readers acquaintance, two very worthy Gentlemen, Meſſrs. Wright and Gill; with whom I had contracted for Paper, to the amount of 85l. of which I paid them 32l. with intereſt, and gave two Notes for 28l. each, bearing Intereſt. One of theſe Notes was paid, with Intereſt, and fifteen Guineas of the other; ſo that there remained, due to them, twelve pounds and five ſhillings when the Fire happened.

It is much eaſier to conceive than deſcribe an Author's ſituation; who, having gone through the fatigue and expence of ſuch a laborious Work, and completed it, ready for publication, expecting to reap the harveſt of his labours; when, lo! a fatal Bar to his hopes, deprives him, in one Hour, of that reſource he had ſo long and ſo ardently panted after. No redreſs, no remedy but Patience; the labour, and expence of printing it muſt be repeated, before he ſits down to enjoy the fruits of his paſt labours, in quiet; ungrateful talk; Patience, ſurely, never had a more ample ſubject, for exerting her dominion and influence over the Mind.

Such was my ſituation, on the third day of March, 1776. It is not eaſy to paint the Proſpect which at firſt preſented itſelf; the Harveſt of my labours deſtroyed, when juſt ready for the Sickle. But, calling Reaſon to my aid, I formed the plan of my future proceeding; and comforted myſelf with the reflection, that the Engravers, Printers, and Paper Merchants were ſo near paid; there remaining, to the laſt, the trifling ſum of 12l. five ſhillings only, as above; which, conſidering that they were very eminent, that is, very rich Men, and great traders, I never imagined they would be urgent for ſuch a trifle, to them, at ſuch a time, being reputed to be worth 40 or 50 thouſand Pounds, each. What

pitiful

pitiful Ideas muſt thoſe have, who never felt the ſublime pleaſure of heaping up Money. There is not, perhaps, a pleaſure the World affords that can be compared with it; ſo exquiſitely ſublime, that all inferior pleaſures are wholly abſorbed in it. Thoſe gentlemen having loſt 140 Pounds, by the aforeſaid Fire, it was a terrible blow to their repoſe; but they, with others of the ſame caſt, took care to ſecure, to themſelves, the fragments of all that was left on the Eſtate, in Debts, &c. wholly excluding all ſuch claimants as myſelf, from having any ſhare in the ſpoil. Conſequently, having loſt my preſent dependance, it was judged a proper time to require payment, of my Debt to them, having ſtood long in their Books; which ſingle circumſtance is, to a lover of Money, a ſufficient plea for levying it by diſtreſs; the ſolid argument, that the culprit is not in a ſituation to pay, with convenience to himſelf, is an argument that has no weight; the moſt ſolid and convincing is, you muſt and ſhall pay. Sound, counting-houſe, reaſoning; ſuch as, I make no doubt, every retailer or manufacturer of Goods, for which he has obtained credit of ſome hungry, rapacious, over-bearing, wholeſale Dealer, has experienced one time or other.

In conſequence of the above reaſoning, I received a Letter from Wright and Gill, requeſting immediate payment, as they were really in want of Money. I doubt not the truth of their wanting Money, for that they will to the end of their days. Such penurious Money-rakers make no diſtinction between the Wants of others, who want the neceſſaries of Life, and theirs; which is, merely to accumulate, and heap money on money. This Letter was duly anſwered, requeſting them to add a little more to their common ſtock of Patience, on account of the misfortune which had happened, in which we were common ſufferers; and that I would wait on them in a few Days. Accordingly I attended their Levee, when I ſaw both Wright and Gill: the following is the ſubſtance of what paſſed between us, on that Interview.

Well Mr. Malton (ſays Mr. Wright) I hope you are come to ſettle that account, now; it has ſtood a long time in our Books, and it is very diſagreeable to us, to keep Accounts ſo long open. Yes Sir, ſays I, if you pleaſe we will ſettle it, but it is not convenient to pay you; as you know the loſs I have ſuſtained, you cannot imagine that I am in a ſituation to pay money yet, having loſt the means I had of obtaining it. Why, we are informed that your loſs is trifling, a mere ſhuffling pretence to delay payment. Sir, I ſcorn the appellation of a Shuffler; * my loſs Sir, is greater than yours, which I can juſtify; but, let that be as it may, I have loſt near half the Paper I had from you, with the additional expence of printing, annexed to it. Well, but I knew it had ſtood long, and ought to have been paid before the Fire happened; that he knew I had got a valuable Work, and that I might pay them if I would. What ſound, logical reaſoning; how futile muſt ſuch arguments appear, to an impartial and diſintereſted perſon. That it ſhould have been paid long ago was, now, but little to the purpoſe; it was not paid; and they knew I had loſt that, with which I hoped to have paid them and others, ere now; and the very identical Property I had of them, inſtead of making Money of it; which, had I done, they would be juſtifiable in the ſtep they took to obtain it. All the arguments I could make uſe of availed little or nothing; they had loſt too much already, by Cox and Bigg, who, he (Mr. Wright) ſaid, deſerved to be hanged; and, I make no doubt, they were his real Sentiments. Good God! is it poſſible any human Being could ſo far diſgrace human Nature? as to ſay a perſon deſerved to be hanged; for a piece of negligence, in which, they had not loſt,

* An opprobious term, much uſed by wholeſale Dealers; when an honeſt induſtrious Manufacturer, cannot make his Payments in due time.

on

on the whole, above a hundred pounds (who were reputed worth a hundred thouſand) the other had loſt their Whole, diveſted of all they had, in the World. And I am alſo of opinion, that if, in order to pay them the paltry ſum of 12 or 13 pounds, I had ſold my Copy-right for half, or a third part of its value, they would have highly applauded me, for my Honeſty. I ſhould look on ſuch a perſon in the ſame light, as one who had rob'd me of fifty pounds value, when he knew he could not make ten ſhillings, to himſelf, by his villainy. No, had they never been paid, I know the value of the Work; I have grappled with every difficulty to preſerve it my own Property, entire, and it muſt be ſome more dire Calamity, to me, that ſhall wreſt it from me.

When all I could ſay availed nothing, I propoſed, that, if they would deduct the Intereſt I had paid (as ſurely, in ſuch a caſe, they could not be hurt if they got the whole Debt, without Intereſt) I would endeavour to pay them in a certain, ſhort time, mentioned. I muſt allow them to think and judge for themſelves, they ſaid; and generouſly propoſed, if I paid them in the time, to charge no Intereſt from that time; but they wondered how I could expect what I propoſed, after ſo long credit. I then propoſed to give them a Book for the Intereſt, and put them down as Subſcribers; ofwhich, to ſell it, they might make two pounds, at leaſt. No, the Book was uſeleſs to them. Wretches, who had ſubſcribed ten Guineas, juſt before, to make a ſound in print, or for ſome other ſiniſter view, yet refuſe to encourage a Work, for which they had furniſhed Paper, to the amount of 85 pounds; and the Subſcription to be paid by the intereſt of the money; and, after I had loſt, by fire, near half the Paper I had of them. What pity, that any, who either write or print, ſhould contribute to enrich ſuch ſelfiſh mercenaries, by conſuming their Paper. I then told them, that they were the beſt judges what they had to do, and muſt purſue ſuch meaſures as appeared to them the moſt elegible; I could not pay them yet. They, then, aſſured me they would not wait much longer; in which they ſpoke the truth; as all ſuch like religiouſly obſerve their Word, in paying or in being paid; who frequently make their boaſt, that they are always punctual in their payments; by way of reproach, to thoſe who are not in a ſituation to pay them. As if there was any merit in being punctual, to thoſe who have it always in their power; or a reproach to others, who have not; provided they do not unneceſſarily conſume and embezzle their getings, and are induſtrious to get.

Being, as I thought, in perfect ſecurity, on their account, notwithſtanding what had paſſed; thinking, as being Men, they could not, and as Tradeſmen (for their credit) they durſt not put their menaces into execution. But I reckoned without my Hoſt; for, on Saturday the 8th of June, a gentleman Officer (one Mr. Armſtrong, of Carey-ſtreet, Lincoln's-Inn) waited on me, from them, with a ſcrap of Parchment, and ſlyly told me I was his Priſoner. On whoſe account, Sir, ſays I? let me ſee your Warrant. I read its contents, deſired him to walk up ſtairs with me, and I would ſettle the Account; having, fortunately, received as much that morning, which I had then in my pocket. What the conſequence would have been, had I not been ſo lucky, I will not ſay; but, as it was, it ſupplied me with courage to ſupport it, with becoming fortitude.

Thoſe who never had the honour to be acquainted with ſuch like Gentlemen, executors of the Law, cannot have the leaſt idea of the delicacy, the humanity, the tender feelings of ſome of thoſe Harpies in office; who are dead to every ſenſe of feeling, where their Intereſt is concerned. My Wife (ever anticipating woe) ſuſpecting his buſineſs, followed cloſe in the rear; when there followed, perhaps, the moſt entertaining Scene that can be imagined; of which, I will endeavour to give a true Picture.

There were, in my Study, three of my Children, Boys, who were juſt come home, from a School in Yorkſhire, the oldeſt juſt turned of twelve years. Hav-

ing been rather a heavy Tax on me, for three years and a half, of thirty Guineas a year, I had now got them Home; not merely to ſave that expence, * or ſome part, but rather to inſtruct them myſelf, now; having, as I thought, finiſhed the work I had in hand. As ſoon as my Wife entered the room, as if ſhe followed a Spectre; I hope my dear (ſays ſhe) you need not go with the Gentleman? No, my dear, I don't intend it, ſays I; indeed but you muſt, ſays he; Sir, I ſhall not go out of the Houſe (replied I) I ſhall pay the Demand you have on me. On which, he ſtarted up, and collared me; and puting on one of his fierceſt magiſterial looks, Sir, ſays he, do you know who I am? Do you know, that I repreſent the Sheriff of Middleſex? He has a worthy Repreſentative, ſays I; but if you repreſent the Devil † I care not; I can pay your demand on me, and therefore, will not go with you. Immediately he calls up his Hell-hound; who, ere this, had gained entrance, and, like a Ruffian, attempted to drag me down ſtairs. The whole Houſe was alarmed; my Wife, ſtriving to ſcreen me from their violence, was handled ſomewhat roughly; the Boys ſet up their ſhrileſt Pipes, to a fine old tune; up runs a Daughter and the Maid; a Lady, on the firſt floor, was frighted almoſt to death; in ſhort, it was the moſt diverting ſcene that can be imagined; what pity, the Authors of it were not preſent, to enjoy it, and glut themſelves with their juſt Vengeance §. Reſiſtance being vain, I enquired where his habitation was; being informed, in Carey-ſtreet, a Coach was called, and away we drove, taking a Son with me, who happened to come in. He had to trudge into Abchurch-Lane, to the Attorney (Mr. Conſtable) to get a Bill of debt and coſts. If he had happened to be gone to his Country houſe, I perhaps, have taken up my reſidence in Carey-ſtreet, till Monday; it being a cuſtom with thoſe Gentlemen, to ſeize their prey on a Saturday, in order to detain them the next Day, if matters cannot be ſettled ſoon. The Bill was making out, when a meſſenger was ſent, to order twenty ſhillings to be tacked to it, for Intereſt; which, with the expences of one pound ſixteen ſhillings, brought it up to fifteen pounds, and one ſhilling. That buſineſs being done, the Office ſearched, and the Money paid, I regained my Liberty, and returned home, to comfort my diſconſolate Family.

I ſhould be glad (for the ſake of thoſe, whoſe misfortunes may ſubject them to the inſults of ſuch Wretches) that ſome humane Perſon, of the Law, would, in public print, let ſuch know, how far thoſe Gentlemen have authority to tyrannize over thoſe, who are already too much oppreſſed; and how they may be puniſhed, for over acting their part. What! is an unfortunate Man, in credit, to be treated, by ſuch Reptiles, like a Cutpurſe, or a Felon? If I was under a miſtake in point of Law, he ſhould have ſet me right, in a proper manner. But why ſhould a Perſon be obliged to go with them (the idea of which is terrible to a Perſon in Credit) when he can anſwer the demand againſt him? Is it to ſqueze the laſt Shilling from him, by all means poſſible? A Shilling or two for a Coach; a Shilling for being lock'd up; a Bottle or two of Wine; and what they can extort for ſearching the Office, (though they have no right to demand any thing), 'tis their own Buſineſs; and at their peril they detain a Perſon, if there be nothing more againſt him. It would be a real Bleſſing to the unfortunate, if every Sheriff, entering on his Office, would make it his firſt buſineſs to enquire, ſtrictly, how thoſe, to whom they delegate ſuch Power, have acted, in the execution of their Office; and either ſuſpend for awhile, or expel them entirely, if they be found, as too many might be found, to deſerve it.

* Let none be ſurprized at the mention of ſaving. Having three, at once, it was agreed for ten Guineas each, otherwiſe it is twelve Pounds a Year; out of which, I will maintain it, they clear five or ſix, for teaching; then where three are ſo many in a Family, with œconomy, there may be a ſaving.

† *Query*, Whether it was not a more juſt, and ſtriking Repreſentation?

§ To give them a better Idea, they may ſee a faint reſemblance, delineated in a Print, in the firſt Number of a Publication, five or ſix Years ago, called the Gentleman's Muſeum.

paltry

I ſhall, now, take my leave of thoſe generous and truly humane Gentlemen; thoſe fair and upright Traders; who, by means of their great wealth, have the power to monopolize a moſt neceſſary Article, for many miles around the Metropolis; who could have the barbarity to arreſt an induſtrious Perſon, for the paltry Sum of twelve Pounds five Shillings, the remains of near a Hundred; after having loſt near half the Paper he had of them (as related above) although he paid them Intereſt for their Credit; amounting, on the whole, to four Pounds, twelve Shillings, and ten Pence.

Would it not have redounded more to their Reputation, to have ſent for me, and addreſſed me thus? Well, Mr. Malton, we are ſorry that you are, alſo, a ſufferer with us, in that unfortunate Accident; which, to us, is trifling, becauſe we are able to bear it. But for you, who having juſt completed ſuch a truly laborious Work; burthened, as you are, with ſo large a Family, to be thus fruſtrated in reaping the emolument of your indefatigable Labour and Induſtry, we are really concerned. Having ſeen and experienced your Probity, we freely offer to credit you Paper, for reprinting the Work; which, we are glad to hear, merits the approbation of the Public; as we ſhall be happy in being inſtrumental to the rewarding of ſo much Merit. There was a ſmall Balance left unpaid; had not our loſs been already conſiderable, we would ſtrike it out of our Books; we cannot ſuppoſe you are in a ſituation now to pay; but if you approve of it, we will add it to the next Account; you may, hereafter, be in a better ſituation; we will endeavour to contribute towards it; we will each of us be a Subſcriber to your Work: as for the Intereſt you have paid, it ſhall be remited. 'tis enough that we get the Principal now. I muſt obſerve, here, that when Mr. Wright ſaid, he knew I had got a valuable Work, I aſked him what better I was for it, at preſent? would they let me have Paper, for reprinting it? The anſwer was, yes, if I would give them ſecurity for it. You aſked for none before, ſaid I, nor will I attempt to give you any now; ſurely, now the merits of the Work is eſtabliſhed, I am not in a worſe ſituation than when I began it. But I deſire not your credit, I can have it elſewhere, and be ſerved at a lower price.

Having thus diſcharged a duty to the Public, in reſpect of ſuch Blood ſuckers; I have only further to add, that I am fully perſuaded, they were inſtrumental to the following affair. Being fortunate, in geting their Money, I muſt, in courſe have it in my power to pay the other, alſo; but if I had, I was far from having the inclination, ſeeing I never had value for the Money, delivered to me; but, on the contrary, detained from me, by their Caprice, till it was deſtroyed. With what confidence could they think of compelling me to pay, for Work done, when they were conſcious of being the ſole cauſe of my loſing it? I ſhall find means (doubt not) to do myſelf juſtice.

On Wedneſday the 26th of June, I received a Letter from an Attorney on Mr. Wells's account; giving me to know, that Mr. Wells had put into their hands, the two Notes, for twenty Pounds fifteen Shillings, with order to arreſt me, if they were not paid the next Day, or on Friday. I waited on Mr. Wells the next Day, and let him know how I was ſituated; and that, if I muſt pay the Notes, they muſt allow me Time; but that, Cox and Bigg were the Perſons properly accountable for them. I knew not, then, that he was a party concerned, otherwiſe, than having advanced, as he ſaid, a thouſand Pounds, which he had loſt; he deſerved to loſe it, for his negligence, in not ſeeing them inſured; by which, others ſuffered ſo much. But, as ſuch, generally, are better acquainted with the affairs of thoſe who are indebted to them, than themſelves, he knew I could pay them, then, if I would. Perhaps I could; but I had twenty more important, and neceſſary demands for all the Money I could get.

I wrote

I wrote to him, the next Day, and ſtated the Caſe in the moſt candid and impartial manner; laid the true ſituation of my affairs open to him; with the burthen of ſuch a Family, as I had to provide for; and that, in three Weeks time, I would uſe my utmoſt endeavours to pay one of the Notes. But, what is moſt extraordinary, although I had requeſted it, over and over, of Mr. Cox, and he had promiſed I ſhould, yet, I could never be indulged with an Account of what there was againſt me; to have, at leaſt, the ſatisfaction that I ever was ſo much indebted to them.

Notwithſtanding all I had ſaid or wrote to Mr. Wells, I was arreſted in a fortnight after, on Saturday (as uſual) the 13th of July. As I never imagined that they durſt, or that any Perſon, who was not a Jew or a Barbarian, could have proceeded to compulſion, in ſuch an affair, I was determined not to pay it, till I had advice concerning it; and, having the long Vacation before me, I conſequently gave Bail. But, finding I had no Plea to ſupport a Trial, as I could not give direct and poſitive proof, that he was a Partner in the Buſineſs; nor, indeed, did I know it then; and, being at a diſtance from Home, I ſent Orders for paying it, before the Term commenced. I muſt, however, do Mr. Wells this juſtice; he took no more than the Principal; I paid no expences, nor did he charge Intereſt on the Notes; like the other hungry, rapacious Wretches, Wright and Gill, who charged to the laſt Shilling of Intereſt.

Thus the affair ſtands, at preſent, between me and the Printers. I have waited till now, in hopes they might be in a ſituation, ere this, to reprint the Work; and, by that means, make me ſome reparation, without inconvenience to themſelves. But, I am never the nearer; the Partnerſhip is diſſolved, and therefore, I have but little to expect on that ſcore; nor could I longer delay puting the Work to Preſs. The Public may now be aſſured, that it will be regularly publiſhed in Numbers, or Parcels, every Month.

I cannot ſuppoſe that Meſſrs. Cox and Bigg are inſenſible to the peculiar hardſhip of my Caſe, as they are conſcious that I ſuffered, entirely, through their caprice; but I think, had they repreſented the Caſe properly, and as it really was, they might have alleviated it; and, at leaſt, have acquited me of thoſe Notes, I had, imprudently, but with good intention to them, laſt given; eſpecially, as they were not gainers by the payment. I have only, now, to wait with Patience, to ſee what will be the reſult of the Brief now impending, and collecting from Houſe to Houſe, throughout every Pariſh in England, &c. obtained through the Policy and Intereſt of Mr. Wells; who, although he would diſdain to have his Name appear in it, will not, I preſume refuſe to accept the ſhare of it, which may be allotted to Mr. Nettleton; for that, the World may be aſſured, is the ſole motive that induced him to intereſt himſelf ſo much in it.

I hope for my own, as well as for their Emolument, that the Public will be liberal; they never had a more intereſting occaſion. Although they have endeavoured to make my loſs appear trivial (as it certainly is, compared, in bulk, with ſome other ſufferers) I do here affirm, that I loſt 350 Books of Geometry, entirely, and near two hundred (out of five) of the Perſpective, which entirely fruſtrated all my hopes of Emolument, from the publication of that Work for the preſent.